

**Senate File 290 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 290

BY CHAPMAN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to goose hunting on private property.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 481A.5, Code 2019, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. Additional hunting restrictions caused  
4 by the establishment of a refuge area for any wild goose shall  
5 not apply to a person hunting on private property during any  
6 established goose hunting season.

7 Sec. 2. Section 481A.7, Code 2019, is amended to read as  
8 follows:

9 **481A.7 Hunting on game refuges.**

10 1. ~~It~~ Except as provided in section 481A.5, subsection 3, it  
11 shall be unlawful to hunt, pursue, kill, trap or take any wild  
12 animal, bird, or game on any state game refuge so established  
13 at any time of the year, and no one shall carry firearms  
14 thereon, providing, however, that predatory birds and animals  
15 may be killed or trapped under the authority and direction of  
16 the director.

17 2. The commission may specify the distance from a state game  
18 refuge where shooting is prohibited, and shall have notice of  
19 same posted at such distance in conspicuous places around the  
20 refuge, provided, however, this prohibition shall not apply to  
21 ~~owners or tenants~~ a person hunting on ~~their own land outside~~  
22 ~~of a state game refuge~~ private property. The commission may  
23 prohibit shooting at any reasonable distance from a state game  
24 refuge deemed necessary to accomplish the purposes for which  
25 the refuge is established.

26 Sec. 3. Section 481A.39, Code 2019, is amended to read as  
27 follows:

28 **481A.39 Biological balance maintained.**

29 1. The commission is designated the sole agency to determine  
30 the facts as to whether biological balance does or does not  
31 exist. The commission shall, by administrative rule, extend,  
32 shorten, open, or close seasons and set, increase, or reduce  
33 catch limits, bag limits, size limits, possession limits, or  
34 territorial limitations or further regulate taking conditions  
35 in accordance with sound fish and wildlife management

1 principles.

2       2. Additional hunting restrictions caused by the  
3 establishment of a restricted area for any wild goose, pursuant  
4 to subsection 1 of this section, shall not apply to a person  
5 hunting on private property during any established goose  
6 hunting season.

### EXPLANATION

8           The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
9           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

10 This bill relates to goose hunting on private property.  
11 Current law allows the department of natural resources to  
12 establish state game refuges on any land owned by the state  
13 to effect sound wildlife management, among other reasons. In  
14 establishing a game refuge, the department may promulgate rules  
15 that restrict hunting on private property.

16 The bill exempts a person hunting on private property from  
17 additional restrictions caused by the establishment of a  
18 refuge area or restricted area for any wild goose. A person  
19 hunting on private property must still adhere to other hunting  
20 restrictions that would exist regardless of the establishment  
21 of a refuge area or restricted area for any wild goose.